



Office of the Chairman

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20580

August 8, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Staff

FROM: Deborah Platt Majoras
Chairman

SUBJECT: Support for Inspector General Activities

This is a reminder that pursuant to the Inspector General Act, our Inspector General, Howard Sribnick, is responsible for conducting audits and investigations for the purpose of finding and preventing fraud, waste, and abuse and to promote economy and efficiency within the agency. These investigations seek out facts related to allegations of wrongdoing on the part of FTC employees and individuals or entities having contracts with or obtaining benefits from the agency. I fully support this important statutory mission.

Particularly when the conduct involves alleged violations of criminal law, investigation by the Inspector General seeks to ensure that employees who are accused of wrongdoing are afforded the rights and protections to which they are entitled, thus avoiding the inadvertent immunization of an employee from prosecution or limiting the authority of the agency to compel testimony under certain circumstances. Further investigative tools, such as subpoena authority, are available to the Inspector General.

The results of Inspector General investigations that uncover criminal activity are referred to the Department of Justice for consideration of criminal prosecution. The results of Inspector General investigations that do not uncover criminal activity, or where criminal prosecution has been declined, are reported to management and to the Human Resources Management Office for appropriate disposition. Decisions regarding discipline are the responsibility of management, in consultation with the Human Resources Management Office, and the Inspector General does not make recommendations regarding the nature or severity of any disciplinary action.

In order to ensure that investigations are conducted in a timely manner, agency employees, including managers and supervisors, should promptly report to the Office of the Inspector General non-frivolous allegations of waste, fraud, abuse, or serious violations of law or regulations. Managers also are encouraged to consult with the Office of General Counsel and the Human Resources Management Office on such matters. Employees who report wrongdoing to the Inspector General are protected from reprisal pursuant to the Inspector General Act and the Whistleblower Protection Act. The identities of employees reporting misconduct and of those accused of wrongdoing (as well as the details of an Inspector General investigation) are protected from public disclosure in accordance with the Inspector General Act and the Privacy

Act.

The Inspector General's page on our website contains much useful information, including a statement Howard has prepared describing his jurisdiction and his relationship with agency staff. See <http://www.ftc.gov/oig/reportoig.htm#1>.

Agency employees may contact the Office of the Inspector General as follows:

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